



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM LABOR



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Florida

The reference week for the quarterly Agricultural Labor Survey was the week of October 9-15. The wage rate in October for all hired workers was \$10.56, a decrease of 13 percent from the previous quarter and four percent from the previous year. On average, field workers earned an hourly wage of \$9.25 and livestock workers earned \$10.20 an hour. This time last year, field workers earned \$9.79 per hour and livestock workers earned \$9.05 per hour.

The total number of workers hired by farms was 41,000, up three percent (1,000 workers) from the previous quarter but down five percent (2,000 workers) from the previous year. Nurseries represented 53% of the hired worker expansion followed by vegetable and potato farms, representing 20% of the agricultural labor force. The next largest agricultural sector for hired labor, categorized as fruit, nut, and berry operations, represented 11% of the workforce.

During the reference week, spotty showers and pleasant temperatures prevailed averaging slightly above normal with highs in the 80s. Light harvesting of vegetables was underway. Field crop activities included sugarcane and cotton harvesting and peanut digging. Citrus harvesting was on the upswing.

United States

There were 1,141,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2011, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 313,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.15 per hour during the October 2011 reference week, up 2 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.54 per hour, up 5 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.67 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.57 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. In California and in the Pacific region, the wet spring and cooler than normal growing season delayed crop development, lessening the need for hired workers. Wetter conditions compared with last year's reference week kept the demand for hired workers lower in the Corn Belt I region. In the Southern Plains, prolonged drought conditions led to considerable culling of livestock throughout the summer. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed during the October reference week.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Lake, Mountain I, and Corn Belt II regions, above normal temperatures and windy conditions were more than enough to offset minor rain delays, and field activities progressed rapidly. This resulted in a stronger demand for hired workers. In spite of rain in the Southeast region, most fields remained workable due to prolonged earlier dryness. Therefore, harvest and planting activities kept worker demand higher. In the Appalachian I region, increased activity on vegetable operations led to a greater need for hired workers.

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Florida All Hired Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates by Type of Worker, with Comparisons

Employer, year, and survey week	Number of hired workers			Number of hours worked	Wages paid by type of worker ¹		
	All	Expected to work			All	Field	Livestock
		150 days or more	149 days or less				
Hired by Farmers ²	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours Per week)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
October 9 – 15, 2011	41	34	7	37.3	10.56	9.25	10.20
July 10 – 16, 2011	40	37	3	40.3	12.15	9.90	10.20
April 10 – 16, 2011 ³							
January 9 – 15, 2011	45	37	7	36.9	10.70	9.45	10.05
October 10 – 16, 2010	43	37	6	39.0	11.00	9.79	9.05
July 11 – 17, 2010	35	28	7	37.7	10.68	9.40	9.40
April 11 – 17, 2010	50	41	9	37.2	10.22	9.10	10.00
January 10 – 16, 2010	48	43	5	37.1	10.84	9.60	10.35
October 11 – 17, 2009	46	41	5	38.6	10.65	9.30	10.10
July 12 – 18, 2009	36	32	4	37.3	10.51	9.14	9.50
Hired by Agricultural Services ⁴							
October 9 – 15, 2011 ⁵							
July 10 – 16, 2011	3			49.7	12.45		
April 10 – 16, 2011 ³							
January 9 – 15, 2011	8			39.0	11.50		
October 10 – 16, 2010	3			46.0	12.20		
July 11 – 17, 2010	2			46.0	11.95		
April 11 – 17, 2010	6			41.0	10.80		
January 10 – 16, 2010	7			41.0	10.50		
October 11 – 17, 2009	3			44.0	11.35		
July 12 – 18, 2009	2			43.0	10.65		
Hired by Farmers & Agricultural Services ⁴							
October 9 – 15, 2011 ⁵							
July 10 – 16, 2011	43				12.18		
April 10 – 16, 2011 ³							
January 9 – 15, 2011	53				10.83		
October 10 – 16, 2010	46				11.09		
July 11 – 17, 2010	37				10.76		
April 11 – 17, 2010	56				10.29		
January 10 – 16, 2010	55				10.79		
October 11 – 17, 2009	49				10.70		
July 12 – 18, 2009	38				10.52		

¹ Includes all paid staff, supervisors, and field and livestock workers. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

² Excludes agricultural services workers.

³ The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

⁴ Data are for agricultural services performed on the farm by custom service units. Blank data cells for these statistics are not included in the State-Regional tables.

⁵ The Agricultural Services Survey was discontinued.

Hired Workers by Farmers, Wage Rates, and Hours Worked, Selected States, with Comparisons

[Excludes Agricultural Service workers]

Item	Florida	California	Texas & Oklahoma	Arizona & New Mexico	Hawaii	United States ¹
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
All hired workers						
October 9 – 15, 2011	41	185	45	19	7	828
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	40	177	51	16	7	834
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	43	193	52	17	7	827
Expected to work						
150 days or more						
October 9 – 15, 2011	34	150	37	16	6	590
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	37	142	40	15	6	603
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	37	157	43	15	6	589
149 days or less.....						
October 9 – 15, 2011	7	35	8	3	1	238
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	3	35	11	1	1	231
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	6	36	9	2	1	238
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked by all hired workers						
October 9 – 15, 2011	37.3	43.6	41.0	49.1	38.0	41.6
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	40.3	44.7	40.0	46.8	38.0	41.2
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	39.0	44.7	42.0	47.1	37.0	41.7
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wages by type of worker ³						
Field						
October 9 – 15, 2011	9.25	10.15	9.53	8.77	12.55	10.54
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	9.90	10.10	10.14	9.89	12.70	10.27
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	9.79	10.20	9.68	9.43	12.00	10.49
Livestock						
October 9 – 15, 2011	10.20	11.20	11.03	10.55	13.60	10.67
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	10.20	10.90	10.25	10.65	13.25	10.29
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	9.05	11.25	10.01	10.07	14.30	10.28
Field and livestock combined						
October 9 – 15, 2011	9.35	10.30	10.10	9.50	12.65	10.57
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	9.95	10.20	10.20	10.20	12.76	10.28
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	9.65	10.35	9.85	9.75	12.16	10.43
All hired worker wage rate						
October 9 – 15, 2011	10.56	10.96	10.78	10.10	14.83	11.15
July 10 – 16, 2011.....	12.15	10.90	10.60	11.10	14.91	10.93
October 10 – 16, 2010 ³	11.00	11.20	10.30	10.45	14.38	11.13

¹ Excludes Alaska.

² The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

³ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast I (New England and New York), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Pacific, and Southern Plains regions. In the Northeast I and Pacific regions, the higher wages were due to strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industry. The higher wages in the Delta region were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. In the Southern Plains region, there were more salaried workers working fewer hours which pushed the average wage up.

The 2011 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$11.07 per hour, up 1 percent from the 2010 annual average wage rate of \$10.95 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$10.33 per hour, up 14 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$10.36, up 1 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$10.22.